

## Message Text

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ACTION SP-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 L-03 MC-02 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 SS-15 EB-07 AID-05 IGA-02  
TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-07 /071 W  
-----221215Z 129064 /50

P 221140Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2726  
INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
USCINCEUR PRIORITY  
JCS WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 4546

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS  
SUBJ: US ARMS SALES POLICY

REF A) STATE 115409 B) STATE 115244 C) STATE 115406

1. CHARGE PROVIDED FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARY WITH TEXT  
OF SUBJECT PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT CONTAINED REFTEL A, AND  
INFORMATION CONTAINED REFTELS B AND C MAY 21. FONMIN  
EXPRSSED THANKS, BUT HAD NO QUESTION OR COMMENT.

2. POL-MIL COUNS PROVIDED GENERAL TOUFANIAN PUBLIC  
ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AM MAY 22  
PRIOR TO LATTER'S NORMAL SUNDAY AUDIENCE WITH THE SHAH.  
TOUFANIAN SAID HE MIGHT HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS AFTER  
STUDYING NEW POLICY, BUT WISHED TO RAISE IMMEDIATE  
QUESTION NOW, NAMELY: "WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN  
IRAN ON THE ONE HAND, AND NATO, JAPAN, AUSTRALIA AND  
NEW ZEALAND ON THE OTHER HAND?" IT WAS POINTED OUT  
THAT US HAD WARM AND CLOSE RELATIONS WITH IRAN, AS  
WITH OTHER CENTO MEMBERS, BUT THAT US SECURITY  
RELATIONSHIP WITH IRAN NOT OF THE SAME SORT AS WITH  
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OTHER COUNTRIES TOUFANIAN HAD MENTIONED. LTG MASSUMI,  
WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT, ASKED ABOUT US - IRAN BILATERAL  
AGREEMENT OF LATE 50'S. IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT  
AGREEMENT MENTIONED BY MASSUMI UNDERSCORED CLOSE  
RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, BUT DID NOT  
EPRESENT SAME SECURITY INVOLVEMENT AS WITH OTHER  
COUNTRIES MENTIONED BY TOUFANIAN.

3. TOUFANIAN WENT ON TO SAY THAT UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM SHAH HE HAD RECENTLY SENT LETTER TO CARMISH/MAAG AFFIRMING GOI INTEREST IN 300 F-16S. ADDITIONALLY, TOUFANIAN WENT ON TO NOTE, BASED ON HIS GUIDANCE FROM THE SHAH, THAT WHEN GOI REPLACES ITS LATE MODEL F-5S IT WOULD INTEND TO DO SO WITH ADDITIONAL F-16S. ALSO, SOME YEARS HENCE WHEN IRAN MUST REPLACE ITS F-4S IT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN OBTAINING THE F-18 WITH THE GOI, ASSISTED BY NORTHROP, UNDERTAKING ANY MODIFICATION THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED AT IACI.

4. TOUFANIAN EMPHASIZED STRONGLY THAT GOI WISHED TO BUY FROM US, AND IF A-18 NOT FEASIBLE THAN IRAN WOULD WISH CONSIDER ADDITIONAL F-16S TO REPLACE ITS F-4S. IF IT NOT POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE SALE WITH US THEN IRAN WOULD HAVE TO LOOK ELSEWHERE, AND WOULD CONSIDER THE MRCA (NATO'S MULTI-ROLE COMBAT AIRCRAFT) OR THE MIRAGE 2000. TOUFANIAN ADMITTED THAT BUYING US INFINITELY PREFERABLE SINCE IT WOULD AVOID VERY DIFFICULT LOGISTICS AND OTHER SUPPORT PROBLEMS. ALSO, IRAN CONVINCED US HAD MARKED LEAD IN AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY.

5. TOUFANIAN SAID THAT GOI RECOGNIZED THAT TIMING ON THESE QUESTIONS NOT IMMEDIATE, BUT IRAN WISHED TO INFORM US IN ORDER TO BE IN BEST POSITION TO PROCEED WITH PLANNING. IRAN, AS HE HAD SAID EARLIER, WOULD PREFER TO DO BUSINESS WITH US, BUT IF THAT

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NOT POSSIBLE TOUFANIAN SAID IRAN PREPARED TO BUY ELSEWHERE.

6. FINALLY, TOUFANIAN SAID SHAH HAD MADE DECISION TO PURCHASE EIGHT PF DESTROYERS AND TOUFANIAN HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SEEK REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL COVERING SUCH A BUY FROM ITALY, THE FRG, THE UK, FRANCE, THE NETHERLANDS, AND THE US. AGAIN, TOUFANIAN SAID IRAN WOULD PREFER TO MAKE SUCH A BUY FROM THE US.

7. IN CONCLUSION TOUFANIAN SAID HE WOULD STUDY NEW POLICY WITH INTEREST AND MIGHT WISH TO RAISE QUESTIONS SUBSEQUENTLY.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 STATE 115409, 77 STATE 115244, 77 STATE 115406  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** US ARMS SALES POLICY  
**TAGS:** MASS, IR, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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